

# How to Use American Community Survey (ACS) Geodatabase Files

March 10, 2021

**Dial-in (For Audio): 1-877-918-2514 (Passcode: 4253419)**

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**Esri, Inc.**



Slides available at:

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/events/acs-geodatabase-webinar.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/events/acs-geodatabase-webinar.html)

# The American Community Survey

## Outline

- **American Community Survey (ACS) basics**
- About the geodatabase files
- Accessing and downloading the geodatabase files
- Using metadata tables to identify full descriptions
- Joining feature class to tables
- Resources for learning more
- Questions

# The American Community Survey

## The Foundation

*The American Community Survey is on the leading edge of survey design, continuous improvement, and data quality*

- The nation's most current, reliable, and accessible data source for local statistics on critical planning topics such as age, children, veterans, commuting, education, income, and employment
- Surveys **3.5 million** addresses and informs over **\$675 billion** of Federal government spending each year
- Covers **40+ topics**, supports over **300** evidence-based Federal government uses
- Three key annual data releases:
  - 1-year Estimates (for large populations)
  - 1-year Supplemental Estimates (for small populations)
  - 5-year Estimates (for very small populations)

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**The American Community Survey**

This booklet shows the content of the American Community Survey questionnaire.

**Start Here**

You have two ways to respond:

Respond online today at: <https://respond.census.gov/acs>

OR

Complete this form and mail it back as soon as possible.

**Your response is required by law.**  
The American Community Survey is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. This survey is one of only a few surveys for which all residents are required by law to respond. The U.S. Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information.

If you need help or have questions about completing this form, please call 1-800-354-7271.

**Test Telephone (TTY):**  
Call 1-800-582-8330.

**¿NECESITA AYUDA?** Llame sin cargo al español al 1-877-833-5625.

For more information about the American Community Survey, visit our website at: <https://www.census.gov/acs>

Please print the name and telephone number of the person who is filling out this form. We will only contact you if needed for official Census Bureau business.

Last Name

First Name  MR ☐

Area Code  Number

**How many people are living or staying at this address?**

- **INCLUDE** everyone who is living or staying here for more than 2 months.
- **INCLUDE** yourself if you are living here for more than 2 months.
- **INCLUDE** anyone else staying here who does not have another place to stay, even if they are here for 2 months or less.
- **DO NOT INCLUDE** anyone who is living somewhere else for more than 2 months, such as a college student living away or someone in the Armed Forces on deployment.

Number of people

**Fill out pages 2 - 7 for everyone, including yourself, who is living or staying at this address for more than 2 months. Then complete the rest of the form.**

FORM ACS-18INFO(2021) CANS No. 0607-0810 CANS No. 0607-0836

# The American Community Survey

## Availability of Data Products

Estimated Population of Geographic Area	1-Year Estimates	1-Year Supplemental Estimates	5-Year Estimates
65,000 or more	X	X	X
20,000 to 64,999		X	X
Less than 20,000			X
Release Date	<b>September 2021</b>	<b>October 2021</b>	<b>December 2021</b>

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/news/data-releases.html)

# The American Community Survey

## How is the American Community Survey Different from a Census?

	ACS	Census
<i>Purpose</i>	Sample estimates	Official counts
<i>Collects</i>	Detailed social, economic, housing, and demographic characteristics	Basic demographics
<i>Produces</i>	Population and housing characteristics	Population and housing totals
<i>New Data Every</i>	Year	10 years
<i>Data Reflect</i>	Period of time	Point in time

# The American Community Survey

## Data Collection Process

### SELF-RESPONSE



### NONRESPONSE FOLLOWUP



# The American Community Survey

## ACS Content

POPULATION		HOUSING
<b>SOCIAL</b> Ancestry Citizenship Citizen Voting Age Population Disability Educational Attainment Fertility Grandparents Language Marital Status Migration School Enrollment Veterans	<b>DEMOGRAPHIC</b> Age Hispanic Origin Race Relationship Sex	Computer & Internet Use Costs (Mortgage, Taxes, Insurance) Heating Fuel Home Value Occupancy Plumbing/Kitchen Facilities Structure Tenure (Own/Rent) Utilities Vehicles Year Built/ Year Moved In
	<b>ECONOMIC</b> Class of Worker Commuting Employment Status Food Stamps (SNAP) Health Insurance Hours/Week, Weeks/Year Income Industry & Occupation	

# The American Community Survey

## Table/Profile Numbering

**B06004**APR

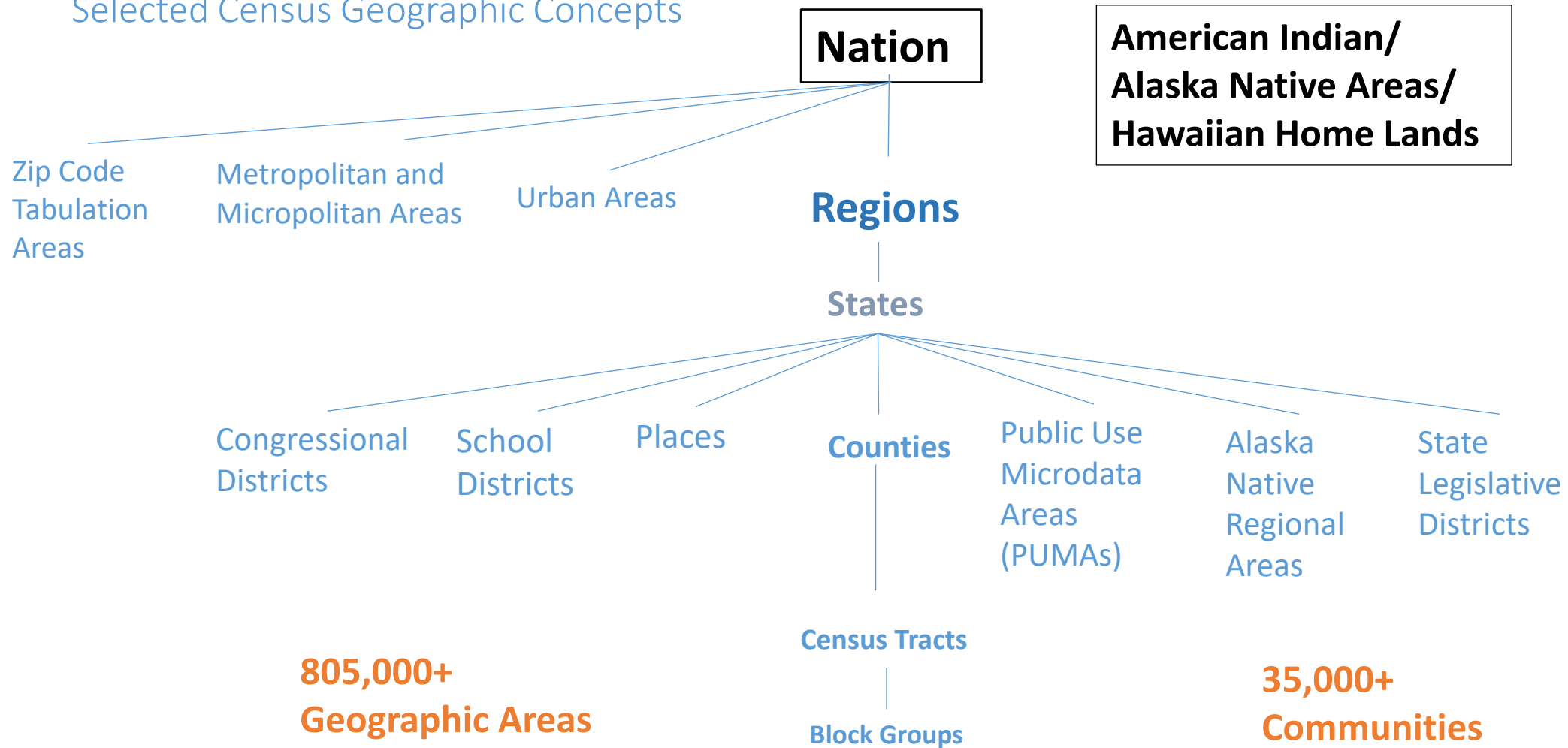
- B=Data Product Type (Detailed Table)
- 06=Subject (Place of Birth)
- 004=Sequential Number (2 or 3 digits)
- A=Race/Hispanic Origin (White Alone)
- PR=For Puerto Rico Geographies Only

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/which-data-tool/table-ids-explained.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance/which-data-tool/table-ids-explained.html)



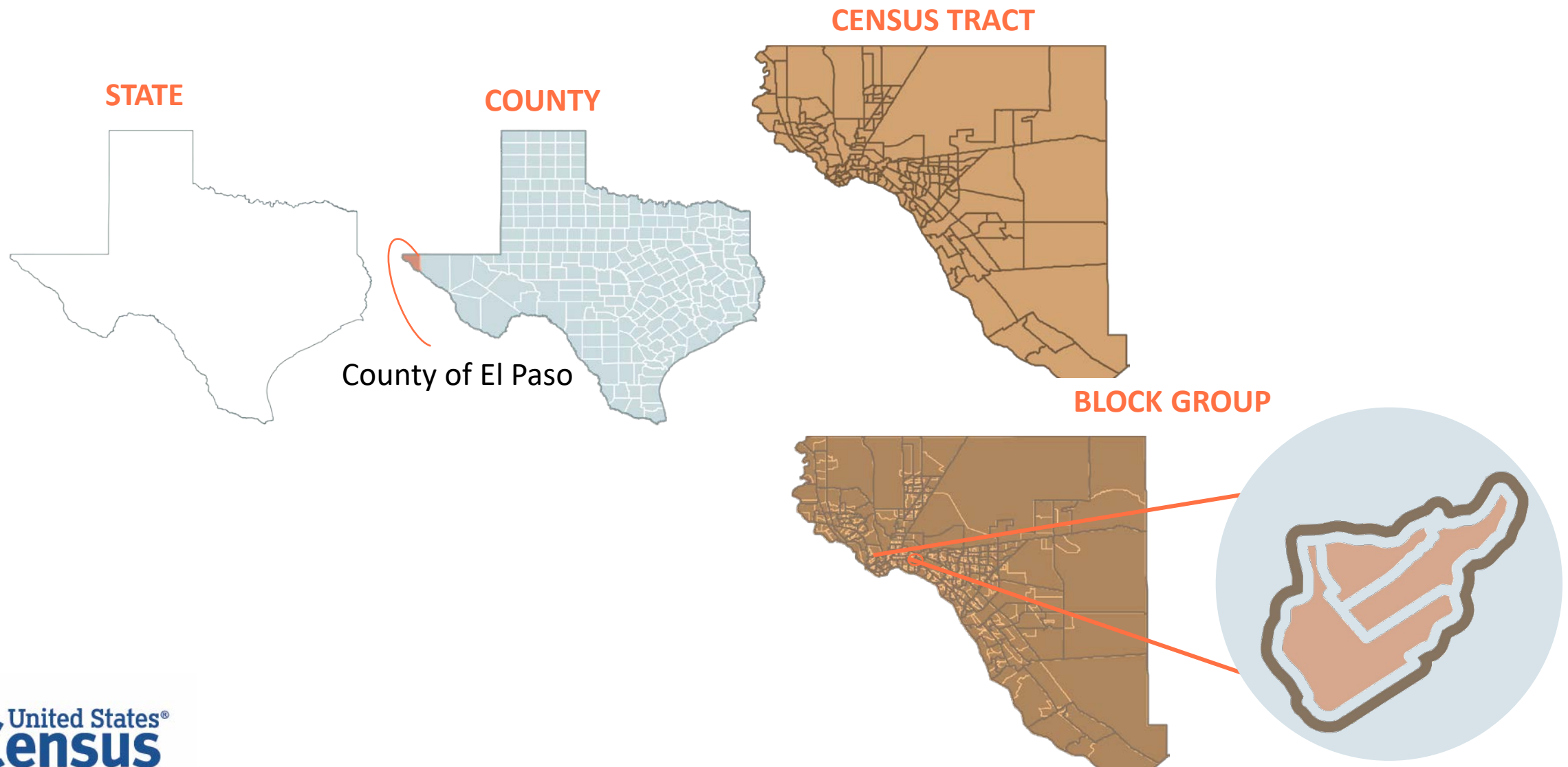
# The American Community Survey

## Selected Census Geographic Concepts



# The American Community Survey

## Selected Census Geographic Concepts



# The American Community Survey

## Outline

- American Community Survey (ACS) basics
- **About the geodatabase files**
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# What is a Geodatabase?

- A “TIGER/Line with Selected Demographic and Economic Data” geodatabase file contains geographic boundary data pre-joined with demographic and economic data variables.
- A geodatabase is a geographic file that can only be used in Esri ArcGIS and related software.
- Files are released in the Spring following the ACS 5-year estimate file release.

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# Where do I find these files?

- Go to Census.gov.
- Click Browse by Topic – Geography.
- Choose “Geographies”.
- Click on 2018.
- Choose TIGER/Line with Selected Demographic and Economic Data.
- Choose the geography that you are interested in and download, or download from the ftp site.

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# The American Community Survey

## Main Page

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// Census.gov > Our Surveys & Programs > American Community Survey (ACS)

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS)

About the Survey

Respond to the Survey

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Guidance for Data Users

Geography & ACS

Technical Documentation


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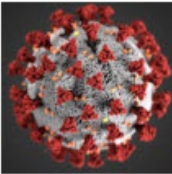
  
Respond to the ACS  
Learn how

## American Community Survey (ACS)


The [American Community Survey](#) (ACS) helps local officials, community leaders, and businesses understand the changes taking place in their communities. It is the premier source for detailed population and housing information about our nation.



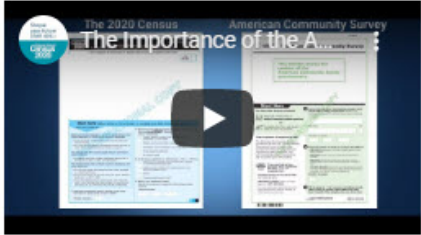
How do I respond to the ACS?



ACS data help with COVID-19 response efforts



Should I respond to both the ACS and 2020 Census?



### Data

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#### 2018 Data Release

Learn more about 2018 ACS data releases, including the latest release of new 2014-2018 ACS 5-year PUMS files and Variance Replicate Estimates, as well as the new 2018 ACS 1-year Supplemental



# The American Community Survey

## Technical Documentation Page



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Census.gov > Our Surveys & Programs > American Community Survey (ACS) > Technical Documentation

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS)

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[PUMS Documentation](#)

[Variance Replicate Tables Documentation](#)




[Race/Ethnicity and American Indian & Alaska Native Documentation](#)

[Back to American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#)



Respond to the ACS

Learn how



## Technical Documentation

The American Community Survey provides various documentation to assist users with our data releases. Click on the links below to learn more about these resources.

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### Code Lists, Definitions, and Accuracy

View the detailed codes and definitions for variables, statistical testing, and an explanation of sample design, methodology, and accuracy for the ACS.

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### User Notes

Learn more about issues impacting the American Community Survey, including design, collection, production, and data release.

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### Errata Notes

Learn more about errors and/or corrections related to the American Community Survey.

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OCTOBER 01, 2016

### Data Suppression

Learn more about why certain American Community Survey estimates are not available due to data suppression.

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### Table & Geography Changes

Learn more about changes to tables and geography for each American Community Survey data release.

#### Related Information

[American Community Survey Data](#)

[Share Your ACS Data Story](#)

[Contact Us](#)

#### You May Be Interested In

##### RELATED TOPICS

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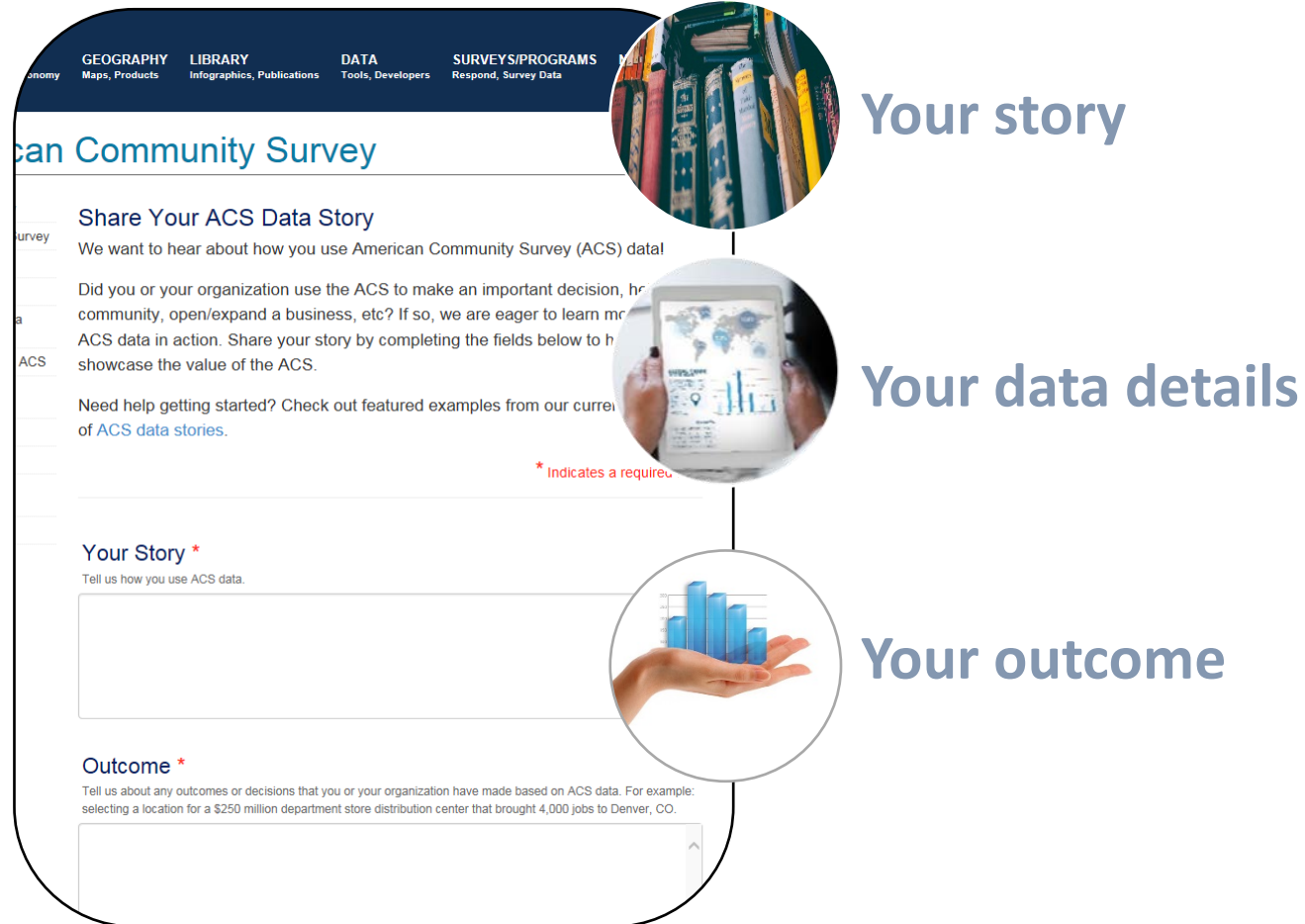
##### MOST POPULAR

[Share Your ACS Data Story](#)

[census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation.html)

# The American Community Survey

## Data Tell Stories. Tell us Yours!



**Share Your ACS Data Story**

We want to hear about how you use American Community Survey (ACS) data!

Did you or your organization use the ACS to make an important decision, hire someone, open/expand a business, etc? If so, we are eager to learn more about how you use ACS data in action. Share your story by completing the fields below to help us showcase the value of the ACS.

Need help getting started? Check out featured examples from our current collection of [ACS data stories](#).

\* Indicates a required field

**Your Story \***

Tell us how you use ACS data.

**Outcome \***

Tell us about any outcomes or decisions that you or your organization have made based on ACS data. For example: selecting a location for a \$250 million department store distribution center that brought 4,000 jobs to Denver, CO.



- Purpose:
  - Improve understanding of the value and utility of ACS data.
  - Promote information sharing among data users about key ACS data issues and applications.
- Includes users group website and online community
- Webinars and special sessions at professional meetings planned
- Membership is free and open to all interested ACS data users
- ACS Data Users Conference: May 18-20<sup>th</sup> (**Save the Date!**)

[acsdatacommunity.prb.org](http://acsdatacommunity.prb.org)



# The American Community Survey

## Continue the Conversation



Sign up for and manage alerts at  
<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/subscriber/new>



Social media: @uscensusbureau  
#ACSdata



More information online:  
[census.gov/acs](https://census.gov/acs)  
[census.gov/geo](https://census.gov/geo)

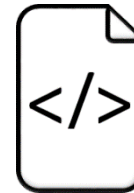


ACS:  
[acso.users.support@census.gov](mailto:acso.users.support@census.gov)

Geography:  
[geo.geography@census.gov](mailto:geo.geography@census.gov)



Census Customer Service Center  
800-923-8282




Source Us:  
*U.S. Census Bureau's [YYYY – YYYY] American  
Community Survey  
[1/5]-year [estimates/statistics/data release]*

# Bulk-Assign Aliases - Script Tool

Bulk Assign Aliases - Script Tool

Overview



Python toolbox containing a script tool that can bulk-apply field aliases from a lookup table in ArcGIS Pro.

Geoprocessing Sample by [esri\\_demographics](#)

Created: Mar 3, 2021 Updated: Mar 3, 2021 Number of Downloads: 0

Download

Description

Details

ArcGIS Blog post containing more information: [Bulk-assign field aliases from a lookup table in ArcGIS Pro](#).

Accompanying [stand-alone script](#) here.

Size: 2 KB

★★★★★



Script tool available for download:  
<https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=c238f18683644e94bf39b6e441a2f09f>

ArcGIS Pro

Update attribute field aliases from a lookup table in ArcGIS Pro

Data Management

March 02, 2021



Diana Lavery  
Gonzalo Espinoza

Data dictionaries. Lookup tables. Codebooks. While the name for a dataset's documentation might vary across professions and data sources, the need for data documentation is universal! A common way to store this type of metadata is in a lookup table or data dictionary. At its simplest, a data dictionary is a two-column table in which one field is the field name, and another is the corresponding definition of what that field name represents.

This type of information can be stored on each field as the alias. An alias is an alternative name for a field providing a more user-friendly description of the content. Aliases are much more accommodating than field names as they can contain up to 255 characters, including

Blog post with more information:  
<https://www.esri.com/arcgis-blog/products/arcgis-pro/data-management/bulk-assign-field-aliases/>





# Esri Community

A global community of Esri users where you can find solutions, share ideas, and collaborate to solve problems with GIS

community.esri.com

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